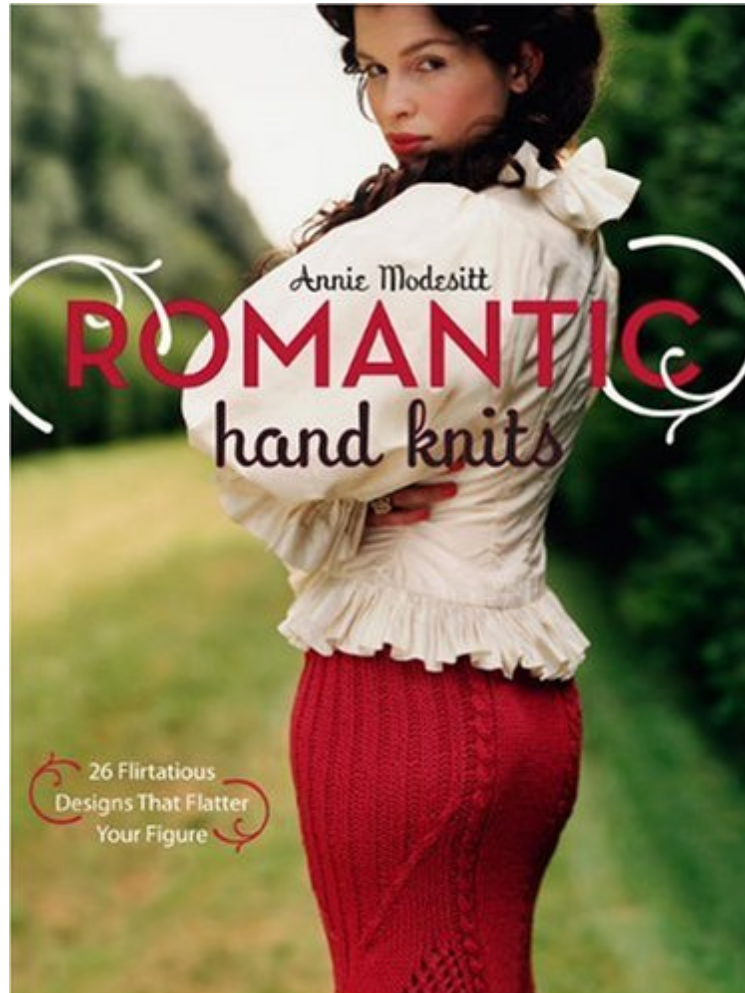


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Romantic Hand Knits: 26 Flirtatious Designs That Flatter Your Figure

Annie Modesitt

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Annie Modesitt : Romantic Hand Knits: 26 Flirtatious Designs That Flatter Your Figure before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Romantic Hand Knits: 26 Flirtatious Designs That Flatter Your Figure:

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Graceful knits can be for fuller figures!By MelisandeI just received this book in the mail the first of the week and I'm already in love with it. The beautiful full color pages are full of graceful shapely knits. It has a section of tops, skirts and luxurious accessories. The shapes are graceful and feminine and harken back to the elegant designs of the 20's 30's as well as earlier eras.However the nicest thing about this book is that they include sizing for larger women, bust sizes up to 48 52 inches, and similarly sized skirts. The patterns as well have sections that instruct on how to customize lengths so the garment becomes truly yours.The yarn choices are

luxurious, with one design inspired by Cleopatra calling for skeins and skeins of gorgeous silk. However there are notes in the introduction and on the author's webpage, and the book's ravelry page that discuss making changes and suggest new yarns for ones that have been discontinued. This is not uncommon for any knitting pattern as it seems that publishing a pattern seems to call for the immediate discontinuation of the yarns mentioned. Overall I'd recommend this book to any who have an interest in "romantic" style clothing. 13 of 13 people found the following review helpful. Absolutely gorgeous

By Cikk This is a lovely lovely book, full of stylish, original and sexy (but not vulgar) knits - most of which I want to make myself. I have bought huge amounts of knitting and crochet books and have recently started editing them - keeping on my shelves only the few really good, worthwhile books - like *Lingerie Style*, *Fitted Knits*, *Loop d Loop* and so on - and now, THIS - wow. Annie Modesitt is a knitting goddess. I cannot stand baggy shapeless knits. They are so ugly and unflattering. None of these fit that category - they are all beautifully shaped and styled, and there's stuff to suit all tastes. Annie M includes places in each pattern to lengthen too, so you can go from short to long sleeves, and short to long or vice versa skirts. The photography is beautiful with more than one photo of each item. There are schematics, graphs, charts, everything one needs to make life easier - including mini tutorials on lace knitting, crochet stitches, and even the finer points of millinery - because there are even a couple of adorable knitted hats. Highly recommended.....

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Gorgeous patterns with excellent instructions!

By Angel Gorgeous patterns that I'm excited to try! I was disappointed to discover that some of the yarns have been discontinued, but that's easily surmountable. I can't wait to get knitting!

Romance is alive and well in the sweet and sexy clothing and accessory designs you'll find in *Romantic Hand Knits*. Exquisite drape married with figure-hugging silhouettes show off a woman's curves in a most ladylike manner, creating flirtatious and flattering fits to please any knitter. Loosely based on ultra-feminine styles from fashion history, the designs in *Romantic Hand Knits* have an undeniably modern appeal. A lace camisole is lengthened and reinvented as a lovely summer slip dress. A late-eighteenth-century corset cover inspires the design for a lacy fitted top with elbow-length sleeves. Silk stockings favored by Elizabethan ladies of the royal court return in a sexy and fresh incarnation. With the new fibers available today, knitting guru Annie Modesitt knits up fabrics that cling delicately to a woman's body, creating an elegant hand-tailored look. Now every woman will be able to create fitted garments that make her look as pretty, desirable, and sexy as she feels.

For knitters who want to heat things up in a whole new way, the alluring designs in *Romantic Hand Knits* will help them light the fires. An interview with Annie Modesitt

What's your philosophy on the romantic look? There is a certain cultural shorthand that implies that romantic means lots of lace, billowy skirts, low-cut bodices, and a little more leg than usual. Sexy with an extra layer. But I think that, like everything deeply personal, romance has its own specific look for each person. Romance is not so much about being desirable to another as it is about reveling in and celebrating our own hearts' desires.

In the introduction to *Romantic Hand Knits*, you say that romance is about dreams and hope, and how in knitting, as in romance, much of the joy is in the dream. How has knitting brought romance into your life? Knitting allows me to enjoy my time, my imagination and my mind more than I might without needles and yarn. When my mind is free and powerful the way it feels when I knit, then my soul soars a little and all of this adds a layer of joy to my life. Not to put too fine a point on it, this makes me love life, and love love, in a much deeper way, which in turn makes me more lovable. Nothing is more attractive than a quiet self-confidence, which is what I get from knitting.

You say in *Romantic Hand Knits* that the garment that dresses the top of the body sets the tone for the rest of your ensemble and that this is perfectly demonstrated in the piece you've named *Ninotchka*. Can you elaborate? It's hard to get away from the fact that the bust area being the most important fit point on most women's bodies and also being so near to the face can send very strong signals. Usually we want these to be good signals: this is a woman in control of her life and her wardrobe, I can trust what this woman tells me, or I feel this person is sympathetic and kind.

In *Ninotchka*, the well-supported bust area adds strength and stability to the design, allowing feminine details like the lace below the bust line and the thin twisted-cord shoulder straps to relax and soften, not weaken, the message this piece sends. Here's a woman confident in her femininity, but with a strong foundation.

Any stories to share from the development of *Romantic Hand Knits*? One of my favorite pieces, *Streetcar Named Desire*, was briefly a disaster! It was worked up quite beautifully by my knitter, who then attempted to block the piece. I generally like to block and finish most of the garments, and I hardly ever wet block, but in the blocking of this piece an interesting thing occurred. The fitted, springy little cardigan that I designed began to drape and hang in unexpected ways. The piece went from Sandra Dee to Blanche DuBois, and I couldn't have been happier! It altered the way that I recommended caring for the piece (machine wash instead of dry clean), which, quite honestly, is how most folks want to deal with their clothing. With the addition of a waist tie, which can be moved to different eyelet rows to create a high, low, or natural waistline, the cardigan had an entirely different aspect - sexier, floatier, more intriguing look.

Is there a particular type of yarn that works best for this look? Why? I tried very hard to use a variety of fibers that represent a wide variety of price points. I do understand that not every knitter will be able to afford the silk to make *Cleopatra*, but I felt it was an important, inspiring piece and had to be included in a collection of romantic silhouettes. A firm, machine-washable Egyptian cotton might be a good substitute. One of the most useful skills to develop as a knitter is the ability to substitute yarn - this skill can only be honed with experience. This is why I

suggest to new knitters that when they see a ball of yarn they like, they should get it and swatch it right away. Dont wait for the right project to come along. If you swatch a yarn you love, you may just see that the right projects been in front of you all alongperhaps in this bookjust waiting for you to see the true beauty in the fabric knit from your new skein. Whenever possible I tried to use machine-washable yarnsespecially for the skirts! I know that the idea of a hand knit skirt can be dauntingwere all worried about the stretchy butt-pouchbut knit fabric is resilient and generally bounces back to its original drape. Machine washing a skirt ensures that it will return to its original silhouette. Is there a philosophy or attitude that each book shares? How is this book different from your other books?If theres one philosophy that all of my books share, its that we all have a bit of geniusof brilliancein each of us, and if we choose to show it through our knitting, so much the better! Were all individuals, so we may do things in unusual or nonstandard ways, but that doesnt make us any less legitimate when were knitting (or cooking or sailing). This book is different in that it focuses specifically on clothes for women, and clothes that are intended to be flattering and a little body-conscious at that. My heart is most definitely in this book, which has been in me for a long time. Im so happy to see it out and looking so beautiful!Do you have a favorite pattern in Romantic Hand Knits, or one that has a special meaning to you?I would have to say the cover skirt is very special to me. Ive shown that photo to many knitters, and Ive heard some women say, Id make that skirt, if I had that butt! I really want folks to understand that its not so much about having a tiny butt, or the perfect butt, as much as its about liking the butt you have. There are a lot of ways to get to this Zen place, but if you have the greatest looking figure in the world and youre not liking it, you may as well wear a sack. Likewise, if you have a less than perfect shape, but you love all the amazing things your body can do and have a fondness for your shape, youll look good in an amazing number of things. Confidence is a terrific butt-lift. Plus, the skirt is designed to help trick the eye into seeing the derriere in the most flattering light . . .

About the AuthorTrained as a theatrical designer, ANNIE MODESITT turns her sharp eye for historical detail toward one of the great passions of her life, hand knitting. Known for creating unexpected and unusual knit items such as furniture and fine millinery, Annies classes in combination knitting and more traditional knit techniques often sell out, and her designs can be seen in most major knitting magazines in North America. She is the author of Confessions of a Knitting Heretic, Twist and Loop, and Knitting Millinery. Visit Annies website at www.anniemodesitt.com.